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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

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57. *(Currently amended)* A method of producing a protein, comprising expressing in a cell a recombinant polynucleotide having at least one of the following properties:

- it comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof; or
- it hybridizes under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 x SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10;

wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF is expressed.

58. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of a human TNF receptor from COS-1 cells transfected so as to express said receptor at an elevated level.

59. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from Jurkat T cells.

60. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof.

61. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

62. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:1 or fragment thereof.

63. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:5 or fragment thereof.

64. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:6 or fragment thereof.
65. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:8 or fragment thereof.
66. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:9 or fragment thereof.
67. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:10 or fragment thereof.
68. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:1.
69. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:5.
70. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:6.
71. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:8.
72. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:9.
73. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:10.
74. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 57, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.
75. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 60, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

76. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 61, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

77. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 65, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

78. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 66, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

79. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 71, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

80. *(Previously added)* The method of claim 72, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.